

APPROVED JANUARY 23, 2018

Montgomery County Community Action Board
November 28, 2017
1401 Rockville Pike, Room 3603, Rockville, MD 20852

MINUTES

CAB Members – Present: Isaac Osei Asare, Alejandro Becerra, Mary Bennett, Valerie Chatfield-Smith, Lisa Conlon, Jackie Dennard, Lisette Engel, Gail Gunod-Green, Laura Irwin, Ron Jennings, Tiffany Jones, Agnes Leshner, Pamela Luckett, Steve Ruffin, Mike Subin, and Zelda Wafer-Alonge

CAB Members Absent: Stacy Coletta and Juliette Traore

Guests: Beverly Coleman, Paul Geller, Matthew J. Green, Jr., Dorene Lake, and John Van Eck

Staff: Sharon Strauss, Charlene Muhammad, and Leah Goldfine

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm.

Consent Agenda: Agnes moved to accept the consent agenda. Mary seconded the motion and all voted in favor. The consent agenda included the October 24, 2017 CAB meeting minutes, evaluation results from the October 24, 2017 meeting, Executive Director's report, Head Start report, Head Start P Card statement, Head Start grant update, CAA contracts report, CAA Self-Assessment tool (email only), CAI updates (report, workshop evaluation results, pre-program survey results), CAB testimony at the Joint Delegation Hearing (email only), and a County demographics presentation (email only).

Executive Director's Report: Board members received a presentation about two-generation approaches to reducing poverty from the Aspen Institute. Sharon reported that she and Charlene participated in a site visit at Garrett County's Community Action Agency, where a two-gen pilot program has been implemented. The goal of two-gen approaches is to weave services together so that the system is less fragmented and that children and families have better outcomes. At Garrett County, the program incorporates a matrix scale that assesses "struggling" to "thriving" and incorporates coaching and financial empowerment.

Montgomery County has its own pilot program with the support of a Kellogg Foundation Grant. The pilot program is being implemented by WorkSource Montgomery. It brings together young parents on a monthly basis, all of whom are current WorkSource Montgomery participants. The goal is to work with 50 young parents and develop a seamless system where all programs working with each family have access to the same information.

Head Start Report: Charlene shared an update on Head Start. Board members received a summary sheet that highlights the differences between Head Start, Pre-K, and the Pre-K Pilot Program (Pre-K Plus). Head Start families have incomes at 100% of the Federal Poverty Level. There are 648 slots for 27 full-day classes, one part-day three-year old class, and one part-day class for children with special needs. MCPS Pre-K families have incomes at 185% of the FPL. These classes are all half-day programs

and serve 2,185 children. MCPS Pre-K Plus families have incomes at 300% of the FPL and serve 120 four-year-olds.

Charlene has been participating in a County Pre-K research group convened by DHHS Director Uma Ahluwalia. The group is looking at ways to expand Pre-K in the County based on the Early Care and Education Strategic Plan. An update is expected in December.

CAB Updates: CAB members were informed that a key advocacy item, the County's minimum wage bill, passed earlier in the month. The minimum wage will increase to \$15/hour incrementally for all employers by 2024.

CAB members discussed the new interactive County Self-Sufficiency Standard website and report. Staff members are working with the Print Shop to design a new printed report featuring slides developed by the University of Washington specific to the County. Additionally, the agency is collaborating with CountyStat to refine the interactive SSS online tool, using a dataset which CAA paid for with CSBG funding that aligns Census data with information from the 2016 SSS report. The new interactive tool will allow users to understand the characteristics of County residents living below the Standard. An event has been scheduled for January 31 as a public launch of the new CountyStat tool and the new report. Isaac offered to help with outreach for this event, as he has many contacts with local media in his job as a videographer. The Board would like to train members to lead presentations about this new tool so that they can help share the information with interested groups. A training will be scheduled for Board members interested in leading these training sessions.

Gail shared updates from the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board. She reported that the County has a new strategy for identifying locations for parks, which looks at many different factors.

Ron shared updates from the Advisory Committee on Consumer Protection. He reported that the most common consumer complaints were for home repairs, retail (appliances), automotive issues, and towing. Tax scams involving fraudulent telephone calls have also increased.

Alejandro provided updates from the Human Rights Commission. He noted that the Commission is hosting an Employment Rights Information Session on December 7. The Commission is considering hosting a session/town hall meeting about immigration.

Announcements: Lisa reported that the County's Homeless Resource Day was a big success. MCPS Head Start/Pre-K participated in the event, along with CAA VITA, and several other partners. Lisa also reported that the Head Start/Pre-K Stakeholders' meeting took place earlier in the day. Key issues discussed included improving the recruitment process, reaching immigrant families, and addressing the delay in registration (registration increases in March/April, then goes down, and then increases again before the school year). Lisa reported that the full registration schedule will be ready by the next CAB meeting.

Guests: Guest Dorene Lake shared some of her personal experience seeking services from DHHS and other departments. Pam thanked Ms. Lake for sharing her experience and suggested that the staff could follow-up with referrals.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.